respect of medical relief. Lights should be maintained throughout the nights at least in the busst streets. He prayed that no additional tax should be imposed on the already dobly taxed citizens, for the purpose of effecting any of the improvements suggested by him. He requested that a new dispensary should be opened at Chalai.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

96. Some needs of the town of Trivandrum.

Mr U. Padmanabha Kukilaya, M. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that the sanitation of the town was in many respects far from satisfactory. There were several things which the Committee ought to do and wished to do but were unable to do for want of funds. But there were other problems, which could not be solved, unless the Government took the initiative. The most important of them was the supply of good drinking water in the town. Good water was scarce in the important sections of the town. Not only was the quality of the water bad but for three months in the year there was scarcity of water. The dearth of water was steadily increasing year after year and fever and malaria took a firm stand in the town and deaths from those diseases were on the increase.

Dewan.—Is it really so? I called for figures for several years and examined them. My impression is that the death rate from fevers is not increasing.

The Member said that the recommendation of the Committee and the statistics recently collected by the Committee and sent to Government would show beyond doubt that the death rate from fever *was* increasing. The Committee recommended an investigation into the causes of those diseases with a view to suggest remedial measures, but it was not yet sanctioned. Those diseases were traceable to bad water. He requested that early steps should be taken for introducing pipe water into the town. There were a few tube-wells and private wells. But they were not enough for the purposes of the town.

He next dealt with the necessity for constructing public latrines in the town at an early date. Government had sanctioned Rs. 15,000 in 1089 for the construction of 16 public latrines in the town, but the actual work, it was stated, would be taken up in the order of urgency. Five temporary public latrines and two urinals were put up by the Committee with a special grant from the Government, but they would not meet the requirements of the town. The provision made by the Chief Engineer in the budget for 1091 for the construction of latrines was vetoed by the Government on the ground that the matter was not urgent. He regretted that such an all-important question affecting the health of the town was not considered as urgent. Some of the works sanctioned, while vetoing the provision for public latrines, were not so very urgent and could have been omitted to provide funds for the latrines. He said that, till about the middle of Makaram, more than 1,200 persons were prosecuted for committing public nuisance. It was the result of patrol duty on particular days in certain parts of the town, but the number of actual offenders would be considerably more. It was therefore clear that the necessity for public latrines was felt by the people. The Committee also wanted several other things to be done such as the clearing of certain public tanks.

Dewan.—Some tanks have been improved.

Member.—We are thankful for the same. We only hope that the Government would proceed with the matter a little faster.

Dewan.—Improvement of many other tanks has also been sanctioned.

The Member then adverted to the condition of the drains in the town. The drains on the sides of even the main road were full of filth. He understood that an Engineer from the Public Works Department was deputed to investigate the drainage system in the town, but what practically came out of it was not known. He requested that early steps should be taken towards the improvement of the drainage system in the town.

Coming to the question of lanes, he said that most of the lanes in the town were too narrow for conservancy work. The work could not also be undertaken now

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on account of financial difficulties of the Committee. He prayed that the Government should fix a standard width for all the town lanes and gradually bring all the lanes to that standard width.

Dewan.—Has the Committee sent up a resolution on the subject?

Member.—From time to time the Committee has sent up resolutions in respect of particular lanes.

Dewan.—Does it not involve acquisition of lands?

Member.—Yes, Sir. But it will bring corresponding advantage to the land-owners on both sides of the lanes. The legislature might step in and see that the land owners get only an equitable sum.

The Member, continuing, said that some of the blocks in the town were traversed by a net work of lanes and suggested that roads should be opened right through them, so as to open out various ways and improve the sanitation.

He next suggested the desirability of covering up the Cochar channel from Palavangadi to the spot where it met the Brahman village of Chalai. It was impossible on account of the winding course of the channel to prevent the fouling of the water in it with a limited number of watchers. It was only a mile of the channel, on the borders of which people were living, that he proposed should be covered up. Further, by covering up that portion of the channel, a wide road for diverting traffic from the Chalai bazaar could be secured and that would give much relief to the present congestion on the Chalai road.

As regards street lighting, the Member said that very many portions of the town were still left unlit during nights. The Committee's recommendation for putting up additional lights was not also sanctioned. He suggested that, as the lighting of the streets in the town was entrusted to the Committee with the funds now allotted for the same, more roads and streets in the town could be lit.

He then referred to the necessity for at least a dispensary in Thycaud or at some convenient place in Chalai. When there was a hospital at Thycaud, the daily average of out-patients was above 150. The other hospitals in the town were at a great distance for the inhabitants of the eastern portion of Thycaud. If a separate dispensary could not be sanctioned, a block might be set apart in the Women and Children's Hospital for dispensing medicines to males.

Lastly, he requested that early steps should be taken for the removal of the night-soil depot from its present undesirable site on the beach. The present site was not fit for decomposition and the breeze charged with it passed into the centre of the town. The Government had already sanctioned the transfer of the depot to Poojapura, but the site was not handed over to the Committee after effecting the necessary improvements. He requested that the improvements and the construction of the approach-road might be effected soon and the site handed over to the Committee at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

97. The finances of the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee.

Mr. U. Padmanabha Kukilaya, M. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that there was a total absence of any definite municipal policy for the State. In the interests of municipal administration it was absolutely necessary that the Government should clearly define the exact scope of the work that each township should attend to, the resources out of which the expenses should be met, the proportionate amounts that should be spent under particular heads, and the ratio between the Government grant and the total expenses of the Committee. All those should be regulated by the area and population of the towns. Such a policy was clearly defined in British India.

Dewan.—In the proposed draft Bill for amending the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, there are provisions relating to some of the points mentioned by the Member.

The Member continued and said that, with the constitution of the Town Improvements Committees as a separate fund department in 1084, the Government

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